AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): A level adjustment apparatus including a plurality of operators each operable in both a level increasing direction and a level decreasing direction, said level adjustment apparatus comprising:

a grouping section that individually sets each of operators, selected from among said plurality of operators, to a forward or inverse operational direction, so that at least one operator is set in the forward operational direction and at least one operator is set to the inverse operational direction, and groups the selected operators into one or more groups; and

a level control section that, when any one of said operators in one of the groups is operated in a particular direction, performs control to actually move a respective position of each of other said operator in the one group, set to a same operational direction as the operated operator, in a same direction as the particular direction in which the one operator is operated, and performs control to actually move a respective position of each of other said operator in the one group, set to an opposite operational direction from the operated operator, in an opposite direction from the particular direction;

a grouped state display section that displays respective grouped states of said operators grouped by said grouping section; and

an operational direction display section that displays respective operational directions of said operators set via said grouping section.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): A level adjustment apparatus for controlling control values of a plurality of operators each controllable in both a level increasing direction and a level decreasing direction, said level adjustment apparatus comprising:

a collective control operator that collectively controls the control values of said plurality of operators;

a setting section that individually sets each of said plurality of operators to a forward or inverse operational direction, so that at least one operator is set in the forward operational direction and at least one operator is set to the inverse operational direction; and

a level control section that, when said collective control operator is operated in a particular direction, performs control to actually move a respective position of each of said plurality of operators, set to the forward operational direction, in a same direction as the particular direction in which said collective control operator is operated, and performs control to actually move a respective position of each of said plurality of operators, set to the inverse operational direction, in an opposite direction from the particular direction;

a display section that displays respective ones of the operational directions of said plurality of operators set via said setting section.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A level adjustment apparatus for controlling control values of a plurality of operators each controllable in both a level increasing direction and a level decreasing direction, said level adjustment apparatus comprising:

a collective control operator that collectively controls the control values of said plurality of operators;

a setting section that assigns at least two operators, selected from among said plurality of operators, to said collective control operator, and individually sets each of said at least two operators, assigned to said collective control operator, to a forward or inverse operational direction, so that at least one operator is set in the forward operational direction and at least one operator is set to the inverse operational direction;

a level control section that, when said collective control operator is operated in a particular direction, performs control to actually move a respective position of each of said at least two operators, assigned to said collective control operator and set to the forward operational direction, in a same direction as the particular direction in which said collective control operator is operated, and performs control to actually move a respective position of each of the operators, assigned to said collective control operator and set to the inverse operational direction, in an opposite direction from the particular direction;

a display section that displays respective ones of the operational directions of said plurality of channels set via said setting section.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (original): A level adjustment apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein said plurality of operators are provided in corresponding relation to channels, and each of said operators is used to adjust a volume level of an audio signal of a corresponding one of the channels.

Claim 10 (original): A level adjustment apparatus as claimed in claim 5 wherein said plurality of operators are provided in corresponding relation to channels, and each of said operators is used to adjust a volume level of an audio signal of a corresponding one of the channels.

Claim 11 (original): A level adjustment apparatus as claimed in claim 7 wherein said plurality of operators are provided in corresponding relation to channels, and each of said operators is used to adjust a volume level of an audio signal of a corresponding one of the channels.